



NEWS RELEASE

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CHILD PREDATOR PLEADS GUILTY TO SEXUALLY ABUSING A CHILD

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LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced that **LARRY ANDREW COX**, age 45, from DeRidder, Louisiana, pled guilty this week to sexual abuse of a minor before United States District Judge Patricia Minaldi. COX was indicted in November 2006 following an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

COX was masturbating in a bathroom near the swimming pool at the Fort Polk Military base when a 13-year old boy entered the same bathroom. COX then masturbated the 13-year old boy. The 13-year old victim reported the incident but could not give a sufficient description of the defendant. Several months later an 18-year old male witnessed COX masturbating in a different bathroom at Fort Polk and reported the incident. The 18-year old identified COX in a line-up and the 13-year old victim confirmed that COX was the same person who violated his privacy and inappropriately touched him in the earlier incident.

COX will be sentenced at a later date to be determined by the Court. He faces a maximum penalty of 15 years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$250,000.

This case was prosecuted under the Project Safe Childhood Initiative. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney John Luke Walker.

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